

## The Daily Bulletin: 2025-01-29

### PUBLIC/HOUSE BILLS

H 2 (2025-2026) [ENTRY FEES FOR HS INTERSCHOLASTIC EVENTS](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE ACCEPTANCE OF CASH AND SENIOR TAR HEEL CARDS FOR ADMISSION TO HIGH SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES*.

Amends GS 115C-407.55 to require the State Board of Education to adopt rules establishing requirements for the fee charged a student or member of the public to attend an interscholastic athletic activity. Requires that the rules make cash be an accepted form of payment for any admission fee and that senior citizens with a Tar Heel Card be given free admission. Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

**Intro. by Pyrtle.**

GS 115

[View summary](#)

**Education, Elementary and Secondary Education,  
Government, State Agencies, State Board of Education**

H 4 (2025-2026) [SAM'S LAW](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE TRAINING TO STUDENTS AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL ON RECOGNIZING AND RESPONDING WHEN A PERSON IS EXPERIENCING A SEIZURE*.

Names the act the "Seizure Safe Schools Act of 2025" or "Sam's Law."

Amends Article 25A of GS Chapter 115C by enacting new GS 115C-375.7 (governing seizure preparedness) as follows.

Allows a parent of a student diagnosed with a seizure disorder to petition the student's school unit for a *seizure action plan* [Plan] (a written, individualized health plan developed between a school unit and the parent of a student enrolled in the unit who is diagnosed with a seizure disorder that identifies the health care needs of the student and prepares school personnel to meet those needs). Specifies that the Plan must include at minimum the following components: (1) written statement from the student's health care provider with the student's name, any seizure medication prescribed to the student, the dosage and method of administering the seizure medication, the frequency of administration of the seizure medication, and the symptoms necessitating administration of the seizure medication; (2) a written statement from the parent indicating whether school personnel or volunteers are permitted to administer seizure medication to the student, to be renewed in each subsequent school year the student attends a school in the school unit; and (3) if school personnel or volunteers who meet the act's training requirements are authorized by the parent to administer seizure medication to a student, requires the parent to provide the school with at least one unopened dosage of the medication with an intact pharmaceutical label, to be stored in a safe and secure location accessible only by school personnel or volunteers with training to administer seizure medication in accordance with training requirements of new GS 115C-375.7. Specifies that a Plan is only valid for one school year.

Requires each school unit to ensure at least one of its employees is trained to administer or assist with the self-administration of any seizure medication provided to the school under a Plan. Requires the governing body of each school unit to adopt minimum training requirements for those employees or volunteers supervising students with seizure disorders consistent with the guidelines established by the Epilepsy Foundation of America, Inc., or its successor. Establishes a seizure education program for all school personnel having direct contact with students in grades kindergarten through 12. Requires annual seizure education in each public school unit, to cover at a minimum the following topics: (1) instructions for administering seizure medications; (2) signs and symptoms of seizures and the appropriate steps to be taken to respond to symptoms of a seizure; and (3) any other guidelines established by the Epilepsy Foundation of America, Inc., or its successor. Requires the governing body of each public school unit to adopt a policy outlining the requirements of the seizure education program. Requires the governing body of each school unit to adopt a policy requiring principals, guidance counselors, and teachers in the unit to complete at least one hour of self-study review of seizure disorder materials each school year. The governing body of

the unit must select the materials for study in accordance with current practices and standards. Requires the governing body of the school unit to ensure that an informational poster on seizure first aid is posted in at least one visible, high traffic area in each school in the unit.

Amends GS 115C-12 (State Board of Education [Board]), GS 115C-47 (local boards of education), GS 115C-218.75 (charter schools), GS 115C-238.66 (regional schools), GS 115C-150.12C (schools for deaf and blind students), and GS 116-11 (UNC Board of Governors) by requiring the relevant board or school to adopt rules regarding seizures for all schools under its authority and requiring the other entities to adopt seizure policies for schools under their control.

Appropriates from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction \$50,000 in nonrecurring funds to assist the Board with the development of its seizure policy and with other costs associated with the implementation of the act. Authorizes the Board to share any materials or rule language developed under the act with the UNC Board of Governors and the Division of Nonpublic Schools to facilitate the development of seizure policies consistent with the act.

Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

**Intro. by Kidwell, Cairns, Biggs, Paré.**

**APPROP, GS 115C, GS 116**

[View summary](#)

**Education, Elementary and Secondary Education,  
Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies,  
Department of Public Instruction**

H 5 (2025-2026) **NC CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY ACT**. Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO PROTECT A PERSON'S RIGHT TO CARRY A CONCEALED HANDGUN WITHOUT A PERMIT, TO CONTINUE ALLOWING PERSONS TO ACQUIRE A CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMIT FOR THE PURPOSES OF RECIPROCITY OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON DESIRED, AND TO AUTHORIZE OFFICIALS ELECTED IN THE STATE TO CARRY A CONCEALED FIREARM WHILE PERFORMING THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES IF THE OFFICIAL HAS A CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMIT.*

Part I.

Amends GS 14-269, which prohibits carrying concealed weapons, to establish that the term weapon does not include a firearm for purposes of the statute. Makes conforming changes to eliminate subsections (a1) and (a2) pertaining to carrying a concealed handgun with a permit and the punishments set out for violations of those subsections in subsection (c). Makes further conforming changes to eliminate related defenses to prosecution under this statute. Adds new subsection (a3) to provide that the exceptions to the prohibition on carrying a concealed weapon listed in subsection (b) of the statute that include a condition that the person have a concealed carry permit require a person to have a concealed handgun permit issued in accordance with Article 54B of GS Chapter 14 or one considered valid under GS 14-415.24 (reciprocity for out-of-state handgun permits or licenses) to qualify as an exception.

Enacts Article 54C, Carrying Concealed Handguns, to establish that any person who is a US citizen and is at least 18 years old can carry a concealed handgun in North Carolina unless prohibited otherwise by law; violations are a Class 3 misdemeanor. Makes it unlawful for a person who meets any of the 14 specified criteria to carry a concealed handgun, including a person who is under indictment for a felony, or who is or has been adjudicated to be a danger to self or others due to mental illness or lack of mental capacity. Makes a violation of this prohibition a Class 2 misdemeanor for a first offense, and a Class H felony for a second or subsequent offense. Requires a person to carry valid identification when carrying a concealed handgun. Further, requires a person to disclose to any law enforcement officer that the person is carrying a concealed handgun when approached or addressed by the officer, and to display the proper identification upon the officer's request. Makes a violation of this subsection an infraction punishable in accordance with GS 14-3.1 (setting a penalty not to exceed \$100).

Prohibits carrying a concealed weapon, unless provided otherwise by law, (1) in an area prohibited by a rule adopted by the Legislative Services Commission under GS 120-32.1 concerning State legislative buildings and grounds, (2) in any area prohibited by 18 USC 922 or any other federal law, (3) in a law enforcement or correctional facility, or (4) on any private premises where notice is given by posting a conspicuous notice or statement by the person in legal possession or control of the premises that carrying a concealed handgun is prohibited. Makes a violation of this statute a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Amends GS 14-269.3 by amending the prohibition on carrying any gun, rifle, or pistol into an assembly where an admission fee has been charged, or into an establishment in which alcoholic beverages are sold and consumed, so that it now applies to any person consuming alcohol, or at any time while the person has remaining in the person's body any alcohol or in the person's blood a controlled substance previously consumed (was, applied to any person). Removes the exemptions to the prohibition.

Amends GS 14-269.4 to exempt a person carrying a concealed handgun from the prohibition on carrying weapons into certain State property and courthouses, so long as the firearm is in a closed compartment or container within the person's locked vehicle or in a locked container securely affixed to the person's vehicle (previously, exempted persons carrying a concealed handgun with a valid permit under GS 14-415.24, a concealed handgun permit considered valid under GS 14-415.24, or a person who is exempt from obtaining a permit under GS 14-415.25, who has a firearm in the locked vehicle as specified). Makes similar changes to exempt carrying a concealed handgun from the prohibition of possessing any dangerous weapons at parades or funeral processions (previously, exempted persons carrying a concealed handgun with a valid permit, a concealed handgun permit considered valid under GS 14-415.24, or is exempt from obtaining a permit under GS 14-415.25). Does not make changes to the clarification that a person may not carry a handgun on any premises where the person in legal possession or control of the premises has posted a conspicuous notice prohibiting the carrying of a concealed handgun on the premises in accordance with GS 14-415.11(c).

Amends GS 14-269.1 to include convictions under new GS 14-415.35(b) under the convicted offenses for which the presiding trial judge must order the confiscation and disposal of the deadly weapon referenced in the conviction, in the judge's discretion as specified. Also establishes that this provision applies to a conviction of any offense in addition to those specified involving the use of a deadly weapon, including a firearm.

Amends GS 14-269.2, which prohibits the carrying of weapons on any kind of educational property or to a curricular or extracurricular school-sponsored activity, as follows. Amends subsection (i) to exempt employees who reside on the higher education institution or nonpublic post-secondary educational institution at which the person is employed, who in addition to meeting other specified qualifications, has a handgun on the premises of the employee's residence or in a closed compartment or container within the employee's locked vehicle located in a parking area of the property at which the person is employed and resides (previously, exempted persons carrying a concealed handgun with a valid permit or who is exempt from obtaining a permit under Article 54B of GS Chapter 14). Makes conforming changes to eliminate provisions concerning employees who are not authorized to carry a concealed handgun pursuant to Article 54B of GS Chapter 14. Makes identical changes to subsection (j) exempting employees of a public or nonpublic school who reside on the campus of the school at which the person is employed. Makes conforming changes to eliminate reference to concealed handgun permits in the exemption set out in subsection (k), which sets out parameters for how a handgun must be kept in a locked compartment within the person's locked vehicle.

Amends GS 14-401.24, which sets out the provisions for the unlawful possession and use of unmanned aircraft systems, to make a clarifying change to define the term weapon to include any object capable of inflicting serious bodily injury or death when used as a weapon, including a firearm.

Amends GS 14-409.40, which establishes the regulation of firearms as an issue of general statewide concern, to provide that nothing in this statute prohibits municipalities or counties from application of their authority under GS 14-415.35 (as enacted by this act).

Amends GS 14-415.4, which provides for the restoration of firearms rights, to direct the court to deny the petition to restore the firearms rights of any petitioner if the court finds the petitioner is under indictment for a felony (previously, if the court finds that the petitioner is under indictment for a felony or a finding of probable cause exists against the petitioner for a felony).

Enacts GS 14-415.10A to provide that the State of North Carolina is to continue to make a concealed handgun permit available, even though it is lawful to carry a concealed handgun without a permit under new GS 14-415.35, to any person who applies for and is eligible to receive a concealed handgun permit pursuant to Article 54B of GS Chapter 14, reasoning that a permit is convenient for purposes of reciprocity when traveling out of state and to make the purchase of a firearm.

Amends GS 14-415.11 to eliminate the provision that allows a military concealed handgun permittee to carry a concealed handgun during the 90 days following the end of deployment when that permittee's permit has expired during deployment.

Repeals GS 14-415.22 (the construction provisions of Article 54B of GS Chapter 14).

Amends GS 74E-6 to provide that company police officers have the authority to carry concealed weapons pursuant to and in conformity with new GS 14-415.35 in addition to GS 14-269(b)(4) and (5) if duly authorized by the superior officer in charge. Company police agencies can be a hospital, a State institution, or a corporation engaged in providing on-site police security personnel service for persons or property under GS 74E-2 that is certified by the Attorney General in accordance with The Company Police Act, GS Chapter 74E.

Amends GS 74G-6 to provide that campus police officers have the authority to carry concealed weapons pursuant to and in conformity with new GS 14-415.35 in addition to GS 14-269(b) if duly authorized by their campus police agency and by the sheriff of the county in which the campus police agency is located. Campus police agencies can be public educational institutions operating under the authority of the UNC Board of Governors or the State Board of Community Colleges and private educational institutions licensed by the UNC Board of Governors pursuant to GS 116-15 or that are exempt from licensure by the Board of Governors pursuant to GS 116-15(c) and certified by the Attorney General in accordance with The Campus Police Act, GS Chapter 74G.

Amends GS 113-136 to authorize inspectors and protectors of the Department of Environmental Quality to arrest for violations of new GS 14-415.35, subject to the direction of administrative superiors, relating to matters within the jurisdiction of the Department concerning the conservation of marine and estuarine resources and relating to matters within the jurisdiction of the Wildlife Resources Commission concerning boating and water safety, hunting and trapping, fishing, and activities in woodlands and on inland waters.

Applicable to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2025.

#### Part II.

Adds to the exception from the prohibition set forth in GS 14-269 against carrying a concealed weapon when a person is not on their own premises to include any elected official or person appointed to fill an elective office when the person is acting in the discharge of their official duties and possess a concealed handgun permit or an out-of-state permit considered valid under GS 14-415.24. Specifies that the exemption does not apply while the person is consuming alcohol or an unlawful controlled substance or while either remains in the person's body. Further specifies that the exemption does not exempt the person from carrying weapons on campus or education property as prohibited in GS 14-269.2; makes a conforming clarification to GS 14-269.2(g).

Amends GS 14-415.27 to authorize an elected official or person appointed to fill an elective office to conceal carry in the area prohibitions set forth in GS 14-415.11(c), except for those described in GS 14-269.2, when acting in the discharge of their official duties and possessing a concealed handgun permit or an out-of-state permit considered valid under GS 14-415.21, subject to federal law.

#### Part III.

Includes a savings clause.

**Intro. by Kidwell, Adams, Moss, Echevarria.**

[GS 14, GS 74E, GS 74G, GS 113](#)

[View summary](#)

[Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure](#)

H 7 (2025-2026) [NC REACH ACT](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE AT LEAST THREE CREDIT HOURS OF INSTRUCTION IN AMERICAN HISTORY OR AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO GRADUATE FROM A CONSTITUENT INSTITUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WITH A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE OR A COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITH AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE.*

Titles the act as the "North Carolina Reclaiming College Education on America's Constitutional Heritage (REACH) Act."

Enacts GS 116-11.5 relating to UNC constituent institutions, and GS 115D-11 relating to community colleges, to require students to complete at least three credit hours of instruction in American history or American government that provides a comprehensive overview of the major events and turning points of American history and government, as a condition of

graduation with a baccalaureate or associate degree, respectively. Requires reading the following seven documents in their entirety and taking a final exam that focuses on the specified topics, accounting for at least 20% of a student's grade: the US Constitution; the Declaration of Independence; the Emancipation Proclamation; at least five essays from the Federalist Papers; Dr. Martin Luther King's Jr.'s letter from Birmingham Jail; the Gettysburg Address; and the State Constitution. Allows for satisfying the requirement in postsecondary-level courses outside of these institutions including through passing scores on three listed college credit tests or by a passing grade in a dual enrollment course. Requires the Board of Governors (BOG), the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC), and the board of trustees of each institution to ensure incorporation of these requirements into degree requirements without adding to the total number of credit hours required for a degree or conflicting with the accreditation process for each institution. Charges the BOG and the SBCC with ensuring compliance. Requires the BOG and SBCC to annually report to the specified NCGA committee on compliance, beginning November 15, 2026, with required content. Grants the BOG and SBCC discretionary authority to remove the chancellor of a constituent institution for willful neglect or noncompliance over more than one academic year.

Adds GS 116-11(15) and GS 115D-5(z) requiring the BOG and SBCC to adopt policies requiring each constituent institution and community college to require the instruction mandated under new GS 116-11.5 and GS 115D-10, respectively, as a condition of graduation.

Makes conforming changes.

Applies beginning with the 2026-27 academic year to students accepted for initial enrollment in a bachelor's or associate degree program.

**Intro. by Kidwell, Moss, Cairns, Willis.**

[GS 115C, GS 115D, GS 116](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Higher Education, Government, State Agencies, Community Colleges System Office, UNC System](#)

H 8 (2025-2026) [NC MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE ACT OF 2025](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO REDUCE AND BETTER MANAGE THE DISPOSAL OF SINGLE-USE WASTE*.

Declares it is the policy of the State under GS 143-58.2 for all State departments, institutions, agencies, community colleges, and local school administrative units, to the extent economically practicable, to purchase and use, or require the purchase and use of, materials and supplies with compostable or recyclable content in food establishments operated under the auspices of the department, institution, agency, community college, and local school administrative unit. Updates name of the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Division of Environmental Assistance and Outreach so that is referred to as the Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (Division). Adds a new annual reporting requirement for all State departments, institutions, agencies, community colleges, and local administrative units which have authority to purchase materials and supplies to require each entity to report to the Division on or before October 1 the amounts and types of materials and supplies with composable or recyclable content that were purchased during the previous fiscal year. Requires the Secretary of Administration and each State department listed above to review and revise its bid procedures and specifications for the purchase or use of materials and supplies to eliminate any procedures and specifications that explicitly discriminate against materials and supplies with recycled content, except where procedures and specifications are necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of this State (was, had to do this by January 1, 1995).

Amends GS 130A-309.14 to require State departments, institutions, agencies, community colleges, and local school administrative units to report annually to the Division on the amounts and types of materials collected for recycling. Amends GS 130A-309.06 to expand upon the requirements of the report from DEQ to the Environmental Review Commission (ERC) to: (1) now require that the report also be submitted to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations; (2) require that the report include a summary of reports from State departments, institutions, agencies, community colleges, and local school administrative units authorized to purchase materials and supplies on the amounts and types of materials and supplies with recycled content that were purchased during the previous fiscal year; (3) require that the report include a summary of the reports from those same entities on the amounts and types of materials collected for recycling during the previous fiscal year.

Requires the NC Policy Collaboratory (Collaboratory) to study the issue of *food service ware* by examining 10 specific matters, including the environmental impacts of plastics pollution, pending and enacted legislation in other states to regulate food service ware, and alternatives to use of food service ware for serving or transporting food and beverages. Requires the Collaboratory to consult with stakeholders, including specified State departments, representatives of the environmental community, the NC Retail Merchants Association, and the NC Beverage Association. Requires the Committee to report to the 2026 Session of the 2025 General Assembly upon its convening. Defines *food service ware* as products, other than compostable or recyclable products, used by a food provider that are designed for one-time use for serving or transporting prepared, ready-to-consume food or beverages, including plates, cups, bowls, trays, utensils, straws, cup lids, and hinged or lidded containers.

Directs the Legislative Services Officer to evaluate opportunities to reduce the use of *food service ware* in food establishments and *beverage services* (provision of coffee, water, and other beverages at committee meetings and chambers) operated by the General Assembly and implement the measure at the earliest date that does not result in disposal prior to use of food service ware already procured on the date the act becomes law and does not impair contracts for purchase of food service ware in effect on the date the act becomes law. Establishes a pilot program run by Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) to eliminate the sale or provision of food or beverages in or with *food service ware* at five facilities selected by DNCR governed by the same timeline and requirements. Directs the Legislative Services Officer and DNCR to each submit a preliminary report to the ERC by September 1, 2025, and a final report by March 1, 2026.

Appropriates \$50,000 funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Collaboratory to carry out the study required above. Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Warren.**

APPROP, STUDY, GS 130A, GS 143

[View summary](#)

**Government, Budget/Appropriations, General Assembly, State Agencies, UNC System, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (formerly Dept. of Cultural Resources)**

H 9 (2025-2026) **FIREARM DISCHARGE/PREEMPT LOCAL ORDINANCE**. Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO PREEMPT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FROM REGULATING SPORT SHOOTING RANGES AND DISCHARGING FIREARMS ON OR WITHIN PRIVATE PROPERTY*.

Amends GS 14-409.47 (Sport Shooting Range Protection Act of 1997) so that local governments are preempted from regulating sports shooting ranges (currently, local governments are allowed to regulate the location and construction of a sport shooting range after September 1, 1997). Makes conforming changes. Increases the exceptions to those instances of when a county (GS 153A-129) or city (GS 160A-189) may by ordinance regulate, restrict, or prohibit the discharge of firearms so that these local governments cannot do so when the firearm is used on or within private property with the permission of the owner or possessor of the property and conducted with reasonable care to prevent a projectile from crossing the bounds of the property. Applies to existing municipal or county ordinances when the act becomes law. Specifies that any municipal or county ordinance inconsistent with the act is void and unenforceable.

**Intro. by Kidwell, Moss, Pike, McNeely.**

GS 14, GS 160A

[View summary](#)

**Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Government, Local Government**

H 10 (2025-2026) **STUDY STATE TRAVEL ALLOWANCE REIMBURSEMENTS**. Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT BIPARTISAN COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE MODERNIZATION OF THE STATE'S CURRENT TRAVEL ALLOWANCES FOR STATE OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, TEACHERS, AND MEMBERS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY ADJUSTING THE AMOUNTS BASED ON FEDERAL GUIDELINES*.

Establishes a seven-member Committee, with two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as specified, two appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, as specified, and three appointed by the Governor. Charges the Committee with studying and making recommendations on adjusting the State's current travel allowances for State officers, employees, teachers, and members of boards, commissions, and the NCGA. Sets out items that must be considered as a part of the study. Requires the first meeting to be called by the Governor no later than 30 days after the effective date of this act, at which time a Chair is appointed. Allows for the establishment of subcommittees. Requires a report to the specified NCGA commission by March 15, 2026. Terminates the Committee upon the earlier of the submission of its report or March 15, 2026.

**Intro. by Warren.**

**STUDY**

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**Education, Government, General Assembly, State Government, State Personnel**

H 11 (2025-2026) **NO TAX ON TIPS, OVERTIME, BONUS PAY.** Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO ALLOW AN INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR OVERTIME COMPENSATION, UP TO TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS OF BONUS PAY, AND TIPS.*

Expands the permitted deductions to an individual's adjusted gross income under GS 105-153.5(b) to include: (1) overtime compensation paid under Section 206 and 207 of the federal Fair Labor Standard Act; (2) up to \$2,500 in bonus pay (defined); and (3) tips that are required to be reported to the taxpayer's employer by the IRS Code. Allows married couples filing jointly to individually qualify for the bonus and overtime deductions. Requires taxpayers to provide any information required by the Secretary of the Treasury pertaining to bonus and overtime pay. Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Warren, Bell, Chesser, Paré.**

**GS 105**

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**Employment and Retirement, Government, Tax**

H 12 (2025-2026) **OBSERVE STANDARD TIME ALL YEAR.** Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT FOR THE STATE TO OBSERVE STANDARD TIME THE WHOLE YEAR.*

Adds new Article 8, Standard Time, to GS Chapter 81A, consisting of new GS 81A-100 which requires North Carolina and its political subdivisions to observe standard time throughout the year. Effective March 8, 2026.

**Intro. by Warren, Bell, Campbell, Willis.**

**GS 81A**

[View summary](#)

**Government, State Government**

H 13 (2025-2026) **CHARGES FOR PAYMENTS BY CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD.** Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO REGULATE THE AMOUNT A MERCHANT MAY CHARGE CUSTOMERS FOR PAYMENTS BY CREDIT CARD OR DEBIT CARD.*

Enacts new GS 66-67.10 prohibiting persons selling goods or services at retail (merchant) from imposing a charge for credit or debit card payments that is more than the charge the merchant pays to a payment card entity to facilitate or processing those payments. Requires merchants imposing these charges to conspicuously disclose the amount of such charges in any advertisements it posts stating that it accepts payment by debit or credit card. Authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to assess civil penalties against a merchant for violations. Sets caps on the fees for initial and subsequent violations. Directs that the proceeds of any civil penalties will be remitted to the Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund in accordance with GS 115C-457.2.

Effective October 1, 2025, and applies to payments made on or after that date.

**Intro. by Warren, Ross, Setzer, Tyson.**

[GS 66](#)

[View summary](#)

**Business and Commerce**

H 14 (2025-2026) [GAMBLING LOSSES TAX DEDUCTION](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO ALLOW A STATE INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR GAMBLING LOSSES.*

Allows individual taxpayers to deduct the amount allowed as a deduction for wagering losses under Section 165(d) of the IRS Code to the extent the losses are not deducted in arriving at adjusted gross income as an itemized deduction under GS 105-153.5. Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2024.

**Intro. by Paré, Tyson, Kidwell, Winslow.**

[GS 105](#)

[View summary](#)

**Government, Tax, Lottery and Gaming**

H 15 (2025-2026) [SUPPORT PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO CLARIFY THAT THE INCLUSION OF REAL PROPERTY ON A COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN IS NOT A REQUIRED DISCLOSURE OR A MATERIAL FACT FOR THE PURPOSES OF DISCLOSURE FOR REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS.*

Enacts GS 39-51 to specify that the mere fact that real property, or any portion of that real property, is included in a comprehensive transportation plan that is not financially constrained (as defined) adopted pursuant to the specified State and federal provisions, must not, standing alone, be deemed material. Specifies that this applies to (1) offering real property for conveyance, lease, or exchange; and (2) any other real estate transaction, including those specified. Prohibits any party or their agent to the conveyance, lease, exchange, or transaction from knowingly making a false statement regarding the property's inclusion on any transportation plan.

Amends GS 47E-4 to deem the inclusion of real property in a comprehensive transportation plan that is not financially constrained adopted pursuant to specified State or federal law regarding transportation planning not a required disclosure in real estate contracts. Prohibits parties or their agents in real estate contracts governed by GS Chapter 47E from knowingly making a false statement regarding a property's inclusion in any transportation plan.

Applies to claims for relief filed on or after October 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Hastings, Paré, Zenger, Scott.**

[GS 39, GS 47E](#)

[View summary](#)

**Development, Land Use and Housing, Land Use, Planning and Zoning, Property and Housing, Transportation**

H 16 (2025-2026) [GENERAL ASSEMBLY: IN GOD WE TRUST - DISPLAY](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES OFFICER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO DISPLAY THE NATIONAL MOTTO "IN GOD WE TRUST" DIRECTLY ABOVE AND BEHIND THE DAIS OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.*

Amends GS 120-32.1 by requiring the Legislative Services Officer to display the national motto "In God We Trust" directly above and behind the dais of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate. Requires the display to be consistent with the motto that is above and behind the dais of the Speaker of the US House of Representatives.

Requires the Legislative Services Officer to first use any funds gifted or otherwise provided to the State by a private individual or entity for this purpose. Provides that to the extent any of the funds are deemed unappropriated, the funds are appropriated for the purpose of this act. Provides that if no funds are gifted or otherwise provided by no later than 90 days from the effective



date of this act, the Legislative Services Officer is allowed to use funds available to cover any costs incurred from implementing the display.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Moss, Kidwell, Ward, Pike.**

GS 120

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**Government, General Assembly**

H 18 (2025-2026) [HONOR JOE JOHN, FORMER MEMBER](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF JOSEPH "JOE" ROBERT JOHN, SR., LONGTIME MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY.*

Includes whereas clauses. As title indicates.

**Intro. by Ball, Reives, Morey, A. Jones.**

HOUSE RES

[View summary](#)

**Government, General Assembly**

H 19 (2025-2026) [AMEND TEMPORARY RULES OF THE HOUSE](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TEMPORARY RULES OF THE HOUSE.*

Amends the temporary Rules of the House, found in House Resolution 1, by amending the standing committees listed in Rule 27 as follows. Changes Agriculture Committee to the Agriculture and Environment Committee and removes the Environment Committee and the Marine Resources and Aquaculture Committee. Changes Appropriations, Capital to Appropriations, Capital and Information Technology and removes Appropriations, Information Technology. Changes Commerce to Commerce and Economic Development. Changes the Election Law and Campaign Finance Reform Committee to the Election Law Committee. Establishes the Higher Education Committee and removes the Education--Community Colleges, and Education--Universities committees. Establishes the Emergency Management and Disaster Recovery Committee and removes the Disaster Recovery and Homeland Security committee. Establishes the Homeland Security and Military and Veteran Affairs Committee and removes the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. Establishes the Housing and Development Committee. Changes the State Government Committee to the State and Local Government Committee and removes the Local Government--Land Use, Planning and Development Committee, and the Local Government Committee. Changes the Oversight and Reform Committee to the Oversight Committee. Removes the following committees: Banking; Families, Children, and Aging Policy; Redistricting; State Personnel; UNC Board of Governors Nominations; and Unemployment Insurance.

**Intro. by Bell.**

HOUSE RES

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**Government, General Assembly**

H 20 (2025-2026) [FAIR MAPS ACT](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE FOR AN INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING PROCESS, TO ESTABLISH THE NORTH CAROLINA CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, AND TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES TO THE GENERAL STATUTES.*

Part I.

Subject to voter approval at the November 2026 general election, enacts Section 25 to Article II of the NC Constitution to charge the NCGA with establishing by law an independent process to revise the electoral districts for Congress and the NCGA after return of the decennial census, subject to the following limitations. Prohibits NCGA or gubernatorial involvement in revising electoral districts. Requires each NCGA member and US House member to represent equal numbers of inhabitants, as

possible. Mandates districts to consist of contiguous territory. Mandates that the districts remain unaltered until the return of another decennial census. Grants adopted electoral districts legislative force and effect. Makes conforming changes to Sections 3, 5, and 22 of Article II to charge the NCGA with establishing an independent process to revise legislative districts and the apportionment of legislators among those districts. Makes these constitutional amendments effective upon certification.

Enacts Article 1B, Redistricting, to GS Chapter 120 as follows. Sets forth 15 defined terms. Establishes the NC Citizen Redistricting Commission (Commission), charged with preparing preliminary, proposed, and alternative plans for legislative and congressional apportionment and to adopt final plans for the purpose of nominating and electing legislative and congressional members. Details Commission member eligibility, including residency and voter registration requirements, and a number of disqualifications, among them: contributing more than \$2,000 to any candidate for public office during one election cycle, having been a staff member or legal counsel to the NCGA, having served in the NCGA or Congress at the time of or during the eight years preceding their application, having served in any other public office at the time of or for any period in the four years preceding their application, having held any political appointment, and having been convicted of listed crimes against a governmental body of the US or a crime with a direct connection to the listed crimes. Details member application procedures, including applying to the State Auditor with relevant information and disclosures for eligibility review, and publication of the application process. Directs the Auditor to submit all eligible applications to the State Ethics Commission for review and submission of a diverse group of up to 60 applicants to the NCGA, as specified. Allows the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, and the minority leaders in both chambers to each strike up to six candidates from that list. Directs that the Commission will consist of 15 members appointed from the remaining pool of candidates. Allows the State Ethics Commission to appoint the first six members, as follows: (1) two members affiliated with the political party with the highest number of registered affiliates, (2) two members affiliated with the political party with the second-highest number of registered affiliates, and (3) two members that are not affiliated with either of those two parties. Directs the initial six members appointed by the State Ethics Commission to appoint the remaining nine members, three from each of the previously specified categories. Directs all appointing authorities to consider the importance of diversity (defined) in their appointments. Sets terms at 10 years. Details other parameters of the Commission, including appointment of a chair, removal from office, vacancies, and reimbursement of member expenses. Provides for a \$1,200 stipend for each month the Commission meets. Starting July 1, 2040, and every ten years after provides for adjustment of stipend by the Legislative Services Officer for inflation, based on the Employment Cost Index reported to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics or an equivalent measure of inflation. Details Commission staffing and the application of open meetings and public records laws.

Enumerates eight criteria that all redistricting plans must meet, including minimization of the number of split communities of interest, as defined, and excluding favoritism or disfavoritism of an incumbent or consideration of member residency in preparation of a plan. Provides for Commission adoption of preliminary, proposed, alternative, and final plans depending on appointed member affiliations. Directs the State Ethics Commission to submit to the Commission a list of qualified persons who can serve as a special master and meets the requirements of a Commission member, who must draw and submit a plan which the Commission must adopt in the event a plan cannot be adopted pursuant to the statute. Provides for appointment of the special master by the Commission, depending on appointed member affiliations. Requires adoption of all plans by October 1 following each federal census. Details the maximum timeline the Commission must follow in adoption of a plan, which provides for public hearings following receipt of data from the Census Bureau; release of preliminary plans to the public and further public hearings; release of proposed plans, alternative plans and summaries; and the Commission holding a vote to adopt final plans, or selection of a special master to prepare, release and present a plan to the Commission that the Commission must adopt. Provides for extensions for good cause, as specified.

Mandates the Commission hold a minimum of 25 public hearings across the State, requiring providing the public with the seven enumerated resources for public input, including sufficient time to review the plan, and access to demographic data and mapping software.

Authorizes the NCGA to assign to the Commission the duty to prepare district plans for local governments if their governing board or an appropriate court so requests.

Provides for Commission member terms to begin on January 1, 2027, and conclude on June 30, 2030, for any redistricting that might occur prior to the return of the 2030 federal census.

Makes the above statutory and uncodified provisions effective January 1, 2027, subject to voter approval of the constitutional amendments set forth in this Part.

Part II.

Makes conforming changes to GS 120-2.3 regarding judgments invalidating apportionment or redistricting acts.

Makes conforming changes to GS 120-2.4, requiring a court to grant the Commission two weeks' time to remedy any defects a court has identified in a plan apportioning or redistricting legislative or congressional districts prior to the court imposing its own substitute plan. Makes further conforming changes.

**Intro. by Harrison, Morey, Hawkins, Prather.**

[CONST, GS 120](#)

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[Constitution, Government, Elections, General Assembly](#)

H 21 (2025-2026) [DRIVERS LICENSE DESIGNATION/AUTISM](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO DEVELOP A DESIGNATION FOR DRIVERS LICENSES THAT MAY BE GRANTED UPON REQUEST TO A PERSON WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER*.

Enacts GS 20-7(q3) requiring the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to develop, in consultation with specified entities, a drivers license designation that can be granted to a person with autism spectrum disorder, as defined by statutory cross-reference, upon request. Establishes eight criteria and requirements applicable to the designation, including (1) entering the designation into the electronic record associated with the person's license, (2) the requesting individual providing verification or documentation substantiating the diagnosis, as specified, (3) limiting use of the information collected for mutually safe interactions with law enforcement, and (4) developing a process for voluntary removal of the designation.

Amends GS 17C-6, concerning the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission, and GS 17E-4, concerning the Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission, adding the following to the Commissions' powers regarding establishing minimum educational and training standards for employment and continuing education for criminal justice officers and officers, respectively. Now requires the minimum educational and training standards to include recognition and appropriate interaction with persons with autism spectrum disorder, and drivers license and vehicle registration identifiers of persons with autism spectrum disorder, including that the identifiers are optional.

Applies to drivers licenses issued on or after January 1, 2026.

**Intro. by Penny, Hawkins.**

[GS 17C, GS 17E, GS 20](#)

[View summary](#)

[Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle, Government, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, Department of Transportation, Health and Human Services, Mental Health, Transportation](#)

H 22 (2025-2026) [FIRE INVESTIGATION LAW REVISIONS](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO EXPAND THE INVESTIGATORY POWERS OF THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN FIRE INVESTIGATIONS*.

Expands the entities that can supervise a preliminary investigation under GS 58-79-1 (covering fires investigated, reports, and records) so that either the Director of the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) through the SBI or the State Fire Marshal [Marshal] through the Office of the State Fire Marshal ([OSFM]), as determined by the official who conducts the preliminary investigation, has the right to supervise the investigation (currently only the Director of the SBI is authorized to supervise when they deem it expedient or necessary).

Gives the Director of the SBI, through the SBI, the exclusive right to supervise and direct investigations in cases involving death or serious bodily injury, first- or second-degree arson, buildings owned or occupied by State or local government, and buildings owned or leased by educational institutions, churches, or religious buildings if help from a State agency is requested by the official conducting the preliminary investigation.

Deletes language requiring the investigating office to notify the Director and furnish a written, verbally recorded, or electronic typewritten statement to the Director of all facts relating to the cause and origin of the fire and the kind, value, and ownership

of property destroyed as well as any other information required by the Director's forms. Removes the statutory requirement that the Director keep in his office a record of all reports submitted and that the reports are open to public inspection.

Makes conforming changes to GS 58-79-5 to account for changes to GS 58-79-1. Makes clarifying changes. Amends GS 58-79-10, governing investigatory powers to add the Marshal, through OSFM, as an official/agency that has the investigatory powers set forth in the subdivision (currently, just the Director and his deputies). Makes conforming changes to the statute's title and text.

Amends GS 58-79-15 (failure to comply with summons or subpoena) to allow a person to be charged with contempt for failure to comply with a summons or subpoena issued by Marshal, through OSFM (currently, just the Director and his deputies). Makes other conforming and technical changes.

Amends GS 58-79-40 (governing an insurance company's duty to provide investigative information) to add the Office of the State Fire Marshal as an agency allowed to request any insurance company investigating a fire loss of real or personal property to release any information in its possession relative to that loss (currently, just any fire or police chief, county fire marshal or sheriff, or special agent of the State Bureau of Investigation). Adds the Office of the State Fire Marshal as an agency to which an insurance company must provide investigative materials to if the company suspects that a fire loss was caused by incendiary means (currently, just State Bureau of Investigation). Makes language gender-neutral.

Effective October 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Miller, Pyrtle.**

GS 58

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**Government, Public Safety and Emergency Management**

H 23 (2025-2026) [ALLOW STANLY COMM. COLL. CULINARY OFF CAMPUS](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO ALLOW STANLY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO OPERATE A CULINARY PROGRAM AT A SITE THAT IS NOT LOCATED ON THE MAIN CAMPUS OF STANLY COMMUNITY COLLEGE*.

Repeals Section 9.15 of SL 2017-57, which restricts the Board of Trustees of Stanly Community College from operating a culinary school or program on any other site other than on the community college's main campus.

**Intro. by Huneycutt.**

UNCODIFIED

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**Education, Higher Education, Government, State Agencies, Community Colleges System Office**

H 24 (2025-2026) [RESTORE DOWN-ZONING AUTHORITY](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO RESTORE THE AUTHORITY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO INITIATE DOWN-ZONING*.

Repeals Section 3K.1 of SL 2024-57, which amended GS 160D-601 to prohibit enacting, in addition to the current prohibition on initiating or enforcing, an amendment to zoning regulations or a zoning map that down-zones property without written consent from all property owners whose property is the subject of the down-zoning amendment. Amended what was considered down-zoning under the statute to also include a zoning ordinance that affects an area of land by creating any type of nonconformity on land not in a residential zoning district, including a nonconforming use, nonconforming lot, nonconforming structure, nonconforming improvement, or nonconforming site element. This was applicable to local government ordinances adopted on or after the date the section became law and any local government ordinance enacting down-zoning of property during the 180 days before the date that this section became effective. The section also voided any ordinances adopted in violation of the statute.

Applies retroactively to December 11, 2024. Makes any adopted ordinance affected by Section 3K.1 of SL 2024-57 in effect as it was on or before December 11, 2024.

[View summary](#)

[Development, Land Use and Housing, Land Use, Planning and Zoning](#)

## PUBLIC/SENATE BILLS

S 10 (2025-2026) [MOBILE DRIVERS LICENSES](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT REQUIRING THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO PROVIDE MOBILE DRIVERS LICENSES UPON REQUEST, EXTENDING RECIPROCITY TO MOBILE DRIVERS LICENSES ISSUED BY OTHER STATES, REQUIRING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO UNDERGO TRAINING TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE INTERACTIONS WITH MOBILE DRIVERS LICENSE HOLDERS, AND CLARIFYING THAT A MOBILE DRIVERS LICENSE SATISFIES THE IN-PERSON VOTING PHOTO IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.*

Requires the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles (Commissioner), in new GS 20-4.13, to extend reciprocity to a mobile drivers license issued by another state if the license was issued subject to requirements substantially similar to the requirements for mobile drivers license issuance in the State.

Expands the types of licenses included under *mobile drivers license* under GS 20-7(m1) so that it extends to licenses issued for any purpose, including identification (currently, no reference to identification). Now, requires the Commissioner to issue a mobile drivers license as a supplement to valid license upon request of an applicant for a mobile drivers license (currently, Commissioner has discretion to do so).

Amends GS 17E-4 and GS 17C-6 to require the NC Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission and the NC Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission to add training to ensure appropriate interactions with mobile drivers license holders as part of their in-service training standards. Adds mobile drivers licenses as a valid photo identification for voting purposes under GS 163-166.16 (photo ID requirements for in-person voting).

Effective July 1, 2026.

Authorizes the DMV to contract with a qualified vendor or vendors to develop and implement the mobile drivers license system. Directs the DMV to do the following by no later than October 1, 2025:

1. Develop and implement a public awareness program to inform the general public about the availability, functionality, and security of mobile drivers licenses.
2. In conjunction with the North Carolina School of Government and the Department of Public Safety, develop and implement a training program designed to ensure law enforcement officers are appropriately equipped for interactions with mobile drivers license holders, to be made available by no later than January 1, 2026. At minimum, the training must address the protections afforded by the United States and North Carolina Constitutions and how those protections relate to mobile drivers licenses.
3. Notify the State Board of Elections, the Department of Public Safety, and the Secretary of State of the pendency of mobile drivers licenses.
4. Consult with the federal Transportation Security Administration throughout the development and implementation of the mobile drivers license system to ensure mobile drivers licenses comply with all federal laws and regulations

Requires the DMV to adopt rules to implement the above listed requirements.

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[Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle, Government, Elections, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, Department of Transportation](#)

S 13 (2025-2026) [CLARIFY INSURANCE FEE REFERRAL CAP](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT CLARIFYING THE APPLICABILITY OF THE CAP ON INSURANCE REFERRAL FEES PAID TO NONLICENSED PERSONS*.

Amends the persons subject to the \$50 referral fee cap under GS 58-33-82(f) (pertaining to insurance commissions) so that the fee cap applies to referrals of insurance business by an unlicensed individual to a producer licensed under GS 58-33-26(c1)(6) (currently, fee cap applies to referrals by unlicensed individuals to licensed insurance agents or brokers). Removes exception for title insurance. Applies to any referral of insurance business made on or after October 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Johnson.**

[GS 58](#)

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[Business and Commerce, Insurance](#)

S 14 (2025-2026) [CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT/REPEAL LITERACY TEST](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO REPEAL THE LITERACY TEST REQUIREMENT*.

Subject to voter approval at the statewide election on November 3, 2026, repeals Section 4 of Article VI of the North Carolina Constitution, which requires every person registering to vote to be able to read and write any section of the Constitution in the English language. If approved, effective upon certification.

**Intro. by Hanig, Hise, Moffitt.**

[CONST](#)

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[Constitution, Government, Elections](#)

S 15 (2025-2026) [ADOPT BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN/STATE MARINE MAMMAL](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT ADOPTING THE BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN AS THE STATE MARINE MAMMAL*.

Includes whereas clauses. Enacts new GS 145-52, as title indicates.

**Intro. by Hanig.**

[GS 145](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Cultural Resources and Museums](#)

S 19 (2025-2026) [VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AMENDMENTS](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO DESIGNATE JOCKEY'S RIDGE AS AN AREA OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSULT WITH THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS PRIOR TO GRANTING CERTAIN EASEMENTS ON STATE PROPERTY; AND TO CLARIFY THE APPLICABILITY OF STATUTORY BUILT-UPON AREA REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT STORMWATER PROGRAMS AND SPECIFY THAT CERTAIN ARTIFICIAL TURF IS NOT BUILT-UPON AREA*.

Enacts new GS 113A-113.1, designating Jockey's Ridge (the tallest active sand dune along the Atlantic Coast of the US) as a unique coastal geological formation area of environmental concern. Describes the boundaries of Jockey Ridge's area of environmental concern. Specifies the following three use standards that development within the area of environmental concern must follow: (1) requires a permit for development requiring the removal of greater than ten cubic yards of sand per year; (2) any sand that is removed must be deposited at locations within the Jockey's Ridge State Park designated by the Division of Coastal Management in consultation with the Division of Parks and Recreation; and (3) development activities cannot significantly alter or retard the free movement of sand except when necessary for the purpose of maintaining or constructing a road, residential or commercial structure, accessway, lawn or garden, or parking area, unless allowed by the Management Plan of Jockey's Ridge State Park.

Enacts GS 146-29.3, requiring the Department of Administration (DOA), before granting an easement upon State property for the disposal or dumping of spoil materials lawfully dug or dredged from navigable waters, to hold a public hearing where the proposed disposition is located and submit the proposed disposition for consultation with the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations. Applies to requests for proposed dispositions submitted for DOA approval on or after August 1, 2024.

Enacts GS 143-214.7D, excluding six categories of surfaces from the term *built-upon area*, (defined as impervious surface and partially impervious surface to the extent that the partially impervious surface does not allow water to infiltrate through the surface and into the subsoil) or impervious or partially impervious surface in the context of implementing State or local government stormwater programs. Specifies that a slatted deck, the water area of a swimming pool, described stone surfaces and trails, landscaping material, and described artificial turf are exempt. Allows property owners and developers to opt out of any of the specified exemptions. Bars local governments from enforcing ordinances, plans, or stormwater programs that establish a definition of "built-upon area" or impervious surface that is inconsistent, notwithstanding specified statutory authorities. Authorizes the Commission to adopt implementing rules. Repeals GS 143-215.7(b2), which previously set forth the definition for "built-upon area", but did not include specified artificial turfs in the term's exemptions, and allowed property owners and developers to opt-out of the described exemptions. Directs local governments operating stormwater programs to update their programs consistent with new GS 143-214.7D.

**Intro. by Hanig.**

GS 113A, GS 143, GS 146

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**Development, Land Use and Housing, Building and Construction, Property and Housing, Environment, Environment/Natural Resources, Government, Cultural Resources and Museums, State Agencies, Department of Administration, Local Government**

S 20 (2025-2026) [PROHIBITING CERTAIN MASS BALLOON RELEASES](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO PROHIBIT CERTAIN MASS BALLOON RELEASES*.

Enacts new GS 14-401.28 making it illegal for a person or organization to participate in a balloon release. Violations are an infraction punishable by a \$250 fine. Defines *balloon release* as the knowing and intentional release of balloons by a person or through the operation of a device controlled by a person, except for: (1) balloons released by a person on behalf of a government agency or pursuant to a contract for scientific or meteorological purposes; or (2) hot air balloons that are recovered after launching. Sets out related NCGA findings and defines balloon. Applies to offenses committed on or after October 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Hanig.**

GS 14

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**Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure**

S 24 (2025-2026) [GOVT MANDATES INCREASE HEALTHCARE COSTS](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO DISCLOSE THE COST OF STATE GOVERNMENT HEALTH INSURANCE MANDATES ON NORTH CAROLINA'S EMPLOYERS AND TAXPAYERS*.

Contains whereas clauses.

Part I

Enacts new GS 120-272 (legislation containing health benefit mandates). Defines *health benefit mandate* as a regulation impacting a health benefit plan or the State Health Plan that meets any of the following criteria:

1. Mandates that a health benefit plan or the State Health Plan provide coverage of any healthcare service, any specific treatment or set of treatments, or any prescription drug used for the treatment of any health, physical, mental, or behavioral condition.
2. Requires that a health benefit plan or the State Health Plan include coverage for any healthcare service or treatment by a provider or group of providers other than a physician licensed in this State.
3. Places requirements on any cost-sharing mechanism utilized by a health benefit plan or the State Health Plan, such as a copayment or deductible.
4. Regulates any health benefit plan or the State Health Plan cost-control process, including those that necessitate a healthcare provider obtain advance approval from an insurer before a specific service, treatment, or prescription benefit is delivered to the patient or utilized by the patient in order to qualify for coverage under the applicable plan.
5. Places a limit or requirement on a pharmacy benefits manager under Article 56A of GS Chapter 58.
6. Regulates the manner in which a health benefit plan or the State Health Plan provides coverage for a healthcare service, treatment, or prescription drug, regardless of whether the regulation is imposed upon a covered service that is provided by a healthcare provider that participates in the provider network of the health benefit plan.

Defines *health benefit plan*, *piece of legislation*, and *State Health Plan*. Requires that any piece of legislation containing one or more new health benefit mandates is required to also contain at least one provision that repeals at least the same number of health benefit mandates that are already in effect as of the date of the consideration of that piece of legislation prior to ratification of that legislation. Directs that any such legislation is required to also contain a provision appropriating recurring funds in the amount of the cost of that mandate to the Department of the State Treasurer and the State Health Plan or to any other relevant State agency prior to ratification. If any repeal of an existing health benefit mandate required to be contained in the legislation results in cost-savings to the State, then that cost-savings will have no impact on the amount required to be appropriated under this subsection.

Part II.

Expands the mandates applicable to the State Health Plan under GS 135-48.51 (coverage and operational mandates related to GS Chapter 58) so that a provision of GS Chapter 58 containing a health benefit mandate that first becomes effective on or after July 1, 2025, will apply to the State Health Plan as of the start of the next Plan year following the effective date of the health benefit mandate.

Effective 30 days after the act becomes law and applies to pieces of legislation considered by the General Assembly on or after that date.

**Intro. by Burgin, Galey, Sawrey.**

GS 58

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**[Business and Commerce, Insurance, Government, General Assembly, State Agencies, Department of State Treasurer, State Government, State Personnel, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Insurance](#)**

## LOCAL/HOUSE BILLS

H 3 (2025-2026) **[SIMPSON ELECTION CHANGES - EVEN YEARS](#)**. Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE VILLAGE OF SIMPSON SHALL BE HELD IN EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS*.

Amends Section 4.1 of the Charter of the Village of Simpson to require that regular municipal elections be held in even-numbered years instead of odd-numbered years, beginning in 2026. Makes additional conforming and technical changes.

Extends the terms of office for the current Mayor and three Council members by one year. Prohibits holding municipal elections in 2025 and requires that Simpson's regular municipal elections be conducted in even-numbered years beginning in 2026 and every two years thereafter.

**Intro. by Reeder, G. Brown.**

Pitt



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[Government, Elections](#)

H 6 (2025-2026) [ORIENTAL ELECTION CHANGES - EVEN YEARS](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE TOWN OF ORIENTAL SHALL BE HELD IN EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS*.

Amends Section 5 of the Charter of the Town of Oriental, SL 1899-184, to require that regular municipal elections be held in even-numbered years, instead of odd-numbered years, beginning in 2026, with regular municipal elections held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year in accordance with the State's uniform municipal election laws. Requires that in 2026 and biennially thereafter, a mayor and five town commissioners be selected to serve two-year terms. Makes conforming deletions.

Requires that the mayor and town commissions elected during the 2025 election serve a one-year term. Specifies that beginning in 2026, municipal elections must be conducted in even-numbered years and biennially thereafter.

**Intro. by Kidwell.**

[Pamlico](#)

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[Government, Elections](#)

H 17 (2025-2026) [EXTEND TERM OF MAYOR/TOWN OF MADISON](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO EXTEND THE TERM OF THE MAYOR FOR THE TOWN OF MADISON FROM TWO YEARS TO FOUR YEARS*.

Extends the terms of the Mayor of the Town of Madison under Section 3.3 of the town charter (SL 1973-289), as amended, from two years to four years, beginning in the 2025 municipal election. Makes conforming changes to Section 4.1 of the town charter (SL 1973-289) and specifies that the aldermen are elected for a term of four years. Applies to elections held on or after the act becomes law.

**Intro. by Pyrtle.**

[Rockingham](#)

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[Government, Elections](#)

H 25 (2025-2026) [RESTORE DOWN-ZONING AUTH./STANLY & AMP CATAWBA](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO RESTORE THE AUTHORITY TO INITIATE DOWN-ZONING IN STANLY AND CATAWBA COUNTIES*.

Amends GS 160D-601(d), as amended by Section 3K.1 of SL 2024-57, as follows. Allows down-zoning amendments to be initiated by a local government without the written consent of all property owners whose property is the subject of the amendment. Removes prohibition on enacting such amendments without the written consent of the property owners whose property owners are subject to the amendment, but specifies that such amendments cannot be initiated or enforced without such written consent. Narrows the list of what is considered down-zoning under the statute by removing a zoning ordinance that affects an area of land by creating any type of nonconformity on land not in a residential zoning district, including a nonconforming use, nonconforming lot, nonconforming structure, nonconforming improvement, or nonconforming site element. Applicable only to Stanly and Catawba counties and the municipalities located therein. Effective when the act becomes law and applies retroactively to December 11, 2024. Directs that any adopted ordinance affected by Section 3K.1 of SL 2024-57 will be in effect as it was on or before December 11, 2024.

**Intro. by Huneycutt, Setzer.**

[Catawba, Stanly, GS 160D](#)

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[Development, Land Use and Housing, Land Use, Planning and Zoning](#)

H 26 (2025-2026) [TOWN OF MADISON/SATELLITE ANNEXATION](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO REMOVE THE CAP ON SATELLITE ANNEXATIONS FOR THE TOWN OF MADISON*.

Amends GS 160A-58.1 as the title indicates.

**Intro. by Pyrtle.**

[Rockingham, GS 160A](#)

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**[Government, Local Government](#)**

H 27 (2025-2026) [SCHCALFLEX/ALAMANCE/OPEN CAL](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY TO ALAMANCE COUNTY SCHOOLS IN ADOPTING THE SCHOOL CALENDAR*.

Under current law, GS 115C-84.2(d) sets the parameters within which local boards of education must determine the opening and closing dates of public schools under subdivision (a)(1) of this statute. Amends GS 115C-84.2(d) to provide the local boards of education for the Alamance-Burlington Schools with additional flexibility in adopting their school calendars. Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

**Intro. by Riddell, Ross.**

[Alamance, GS 115C](#)

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**[Education, Elementary and Secondary Education](#)**

## LOCAL/SENATE BILLS

S 3 (2025-2026) [4TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 4TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT*.

Blank bill.

**Intro. by B. Newton.**

[Greene, Wayne, Wilson](#)

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S 4 (2025-2026) [48TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 48TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT*.

Blank bill.

**Intro. by Moffitt.**

[Henderson, Polk, Rutherford](#)

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S 5 (2025-2026) [29TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 29TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT*.

Blank bill.

**Intro. by Craven.**

Anson, Montgomery, Randolph, Richmond, Union

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S 6 (2025-2026) [31ST SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 31ST SENATORIAL DISTRICT.*

Blank bill.

**Intro. by Jones.**

Forsyth, Stokes

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S 7 (2025-2026) [34TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 34TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT.*

Blank bill.

**Intro. by P. Newton.**

Cabarrus

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S 8 (2025-2026) [3RD SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 3RD SENATORIAL DISTRICT.*

Blank bill.

**Intro. by Brinson.**

Beaufort, Craven, Lenoir

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S 9 (2025-2026) [1ST SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 1ST SENATORIAL DISTRICT.*

Blank bill.

**Intro. by Hanig.**

Bertie, Camden, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell

[View summary](#)

S 11 (2025-2026) [RESTORE DOWN-ZONING AUTH./MULTIPLE COUNTIES](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO RESTORE THE AUTHORITY TO INITIATE DOWN-ZONING IN STANLY COUNTY.*

Amends GS 160D-601(d), as amended by Section 3K.1 of SL 2024-57, as follows. Allows down-zoning amendments to be initiated by a local government without the written consent of all property owners whose property is the subject of the

amendment. Removes prohibition on enacting such amendments without the written consent of the property owners whose property owners are subject to the amendment, but specifies that such amendments cannot be initiated or enforced without such written consent. Narrows the list of what is considered down-zoning under the statute by removing a zoning ordinance that affects an area of land by creating any type of nonconformity on land not in a residential zoning district, including a nonconforming use, nonconforming lot, nonconforming structure, nonconforming improvement, or nonconforming site element. Applicable only to Bertie, Camden, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, and Tyrrell Counties and the municipalities located therein. Effective when the act becomes law and applies retroactively to December 11, 2024. Directs that any adopted ordinance affected by Section 3K.1 of SL 2024-57 will be in effect as it was on or before December 11, 2024.

**Intro. by Hanig.**

Bertie, Camden, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, GS 160D

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**Development, Land Use and Housing, Land Use, Planning and Zoning**

S 12 (2025-2026) [35TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 35TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT.*

Blank bill.

**Intro. by Johnson.**

Cabarrus, Union

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S 16 (2025-2026) [25TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 25TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT.*

Blank bill.

**Intro. by Galey.**

Alamance, Randolph

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S 17 (2025-2026) [9TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 9TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT.*

Blank bill.

**Intro. by Jackson.**

Bladen, Duplin, Jones, Pender, Sampson

[View summary](#)

S 18 (2025-2026) [46TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 46TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT.*

Blank bill.

**Intro. by Daniel.**

Buncombe, Burke, McDowell

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S 21 (2025-2026) [49TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 49TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT.*

Blank bill.

**Intro. by Mayfield.**

Buncombe

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S 22 (2025-2026) [33RD SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 33RD SENATORIAL DISTRICT.*

Blank bill.

**Intro. by Ford.**

Rowan, Stanly

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S 23 (2025-2026) [12TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 12TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT.*

Blank bill.

**Intro. by Burgin.**

Harnett, Lee, Sampson

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S 25 (2025-2026) [45TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 45TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT.*

Blank bill.

**Intro. by Hollo.**

Caldwell, Catawba

[View summary](#)

S 26 (2025-2026) [47TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 47TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT.*

Blank bill.

**Intro. by Hise.**

Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Caldwell, Haywood, Madison, Mitchell,  
Watauga, Yancey

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S 27 (2025-2026) [RESTORE DOWN-ZONING AUTH./MULTIPLE COUNTIES](#). Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO RESTORE THE AUTHORITY TO INITIATE DOWN-ZONING IN MULTIPLE COUNTIES*.

Identical to S 11, filed 1/29/25.

Amends GS 160D-601(d), as amended by Section 3K.1 of SL 2024-57, as follows. Allows down-zoning amendments to be initiated by a local government without the written consent of all property owners whose property is the subject of the amendment. Removes prohibition on enacting such amendments without the written consent of the property owners whose property owners are subject to the amendment, but specifies that such amendments cannot be initiated or enforced without such written consent. Narrows the list of what is considered down-zoning under the statute by removing a zoning ordinance that affects an area of land by creating any type of nonconformity on land not in a residential zoning district, including a nonconforming use, nonconforming lot, nonconforming structure, nonconforming improvement, or nonconforming site element. Applicable only to Bertie, Camden, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, and Tyrrell Counties and the municipalities located therein. Effective when the act becomes law and applies retroactively to December 11, 2024. Directs that any adopted ordinance affected by Section 3K.1 of SL 2024-57 will be in effect as it was on or before December 11, 2024.

**Intro. by Hanig.**

Bertie, Camden, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Northampton,  
Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, GS 160D

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[Development, Land Use and Housing, Land Use, Planning and Zoning](#)

## ACTIONS ON BILLS

## PUBLIC BILLS

### **H 2: ENTRY FEES FOR HS INTERSCHOLASTIC EVENTS.**

*House: Filed*

### **H 4: SAM'S LAW.**

*House: Filed*

### **H 5: NC CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY ACT.**

*House: Filed*

### **H 7: NC REACH ACT.**

*House: Filed*

### **H 8: NC MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE ACT OF 2025.**

*House: Filed*

### **H 9: FIREARM DISCHARGE/PREEMPT LOCAL ORDINANCE.**

*House: Filed*

**H 10: STUDY STATE TRAVEL ALLOWANCE REIMBURSEMENTS.**

*House: Filed*

**H 11: NO TAX ON TIPS, OVERTIME, BONUS PAY.**

*House: Filed*

**H 12: OBSERVE STANDARD TIME ALL YEAR.**

*House: Filed*

**H 13: CHARGES FOR PAYMENTS BY CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD.**

*House: Filed*

**H 14: GAMBLING LOSSES TAX DEDUCTION.**

*House: Filed*

**H 15: SUPPORT PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS.**

*House: Filed*

**H 16: GENERAL ASSEMBLY: IN GOD WE TRUST - DISPLAY.**

*House: Filed*

**H 18: HONOR JOE JOHN, FORMER MEMBER.**

*House: Filed*

*House: Rules Suspended*

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Added to Calendar*

*House: Adopted*

**H 19: AMEND TEMPORARY RULES OF THE HOUSE.**

*House: Rules Suspended*

*House: Filed*

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Added to Calendar*

*House: Adopted*

**H 20: FAIR MAPS ACT.**

*House: Filed*

**H 21: DRIVERS LICENSE DESIGNATION/AUTISM.**

*House: Filed*

**H 22: FIRE INVESTIGATION LAW REVISIONS.**

*House: Filed*

**H 23: ALLOW STANLY COMM. COLL. CULINARY OFF CAMPUS.**

*House: Filed*

**H 24: RESTORE DOWN-ZONING AUTHORITY.**

*House: Filed*

**S 10: MOBILE DRIVERS LICENSES.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 13: CLARIFY INSURANCE FEE REFERRAL CAP.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 14: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT/REPEAL LITERACY TEST.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 15: ADOPT BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN/STATE MARINE MAMMAL.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 19: VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AMENDMENTS.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 20: PROHIBITING CERTAIN MASS BALLOON RELEASES.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 24: GOVT MANDATES INCREASE HEALTHCARE COSTS.**

*Senate: Filed*

**LOCAL BILLS**

**H 3: SIMPSON ELECTION CHANGES - EVEN YEARS.**

*House: Filed*

**H 6: ORIENTAL ELECTION CHANGES - EVEN YEARS.**

*House: Filed*

**H 17: EXTEND TERM OF MAYOR/TOWN OF MADISON.**

*House: Filed*

**H 25: RESTORE DOWN-ZONING AUTH./STANLY & AMP CATAWBA.**

*House: Filed*

**H 26: TOWN OF MADISON/SATELLITE ANNEXATION.**

*House: Filed*

**H 27: SCHCALFLEX/ALAMANCE/OPEN CAL.**

*House: Filed*

**S 3: 4TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 4: 48TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 5: 29TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 6: 31ST SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 7: 34TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 8: 3RD SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 9: 1ST SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.**

*Senate: Filed*



**S 11: RESTORE DOWN-ZONING AUTH./MULTIPLE COUNTIES.**

*Senate: Filed*

*Senate: Held As Filed*

**S 12: 35TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 16: 25TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 17: 9TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 18: 46TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 21: 49TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 22: 33RD SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 23: 12TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 25: 45TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 26: 47TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 27: RESTORE DOWN-ZONING AUTH./MULTIPLE COUNTIES.**

*Senate: Filed*

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